SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1881.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending June 4, 1881, was:

180.011 Weekly... 118,179 Thursday... 127,028 Friday... 126,737 Saturday... Total for the week ..... 940,790

Is the Administration Backing Down Can it be that Gon. GARFIELD has determined that the investigation and prosecu

tion of the Star route frauds must not be

carried any further 7 It is announced in the Tribune that "there will be no trials in the Star route cases before fall;" and also that "the cases will not be presented to the Grand Jury until

Mr. Donsey, one of the chief conspirators and greatest beneficiaries by these frauds, who for some time has been in Washington sitting in the seat of the anxious, has gained new composure. He has gone home to Arkansas in tranquillity. Those things which recently disturbed his mind disturb it no

longer. At the same time we are informed that Mr. JACOB H. ELA of New Hampshire, hitherto Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, has been made Sixth Auditor in the place of Mc GREW, dismissed. In his new office Mr. ELA will have charge of the business of the Post Office Department. He is a devoted friend and follower of BLAINE and CHANDLER.

These things being so, is there not reason to suppose that the Star route thieves are no longer to be pursued by the virtuous

members of the GARFIELD Administration Is there not danger that some very important persons, persons far more important than Dorsey or Brady, might be damaged if a serious prosecution of these public robberies were to be really and vigorously undertaken?

Did Mr. BLAINE come to New York for nothing?

#### Present a Better Front.

Now is the accepted time for the Demo cratic party to strengthen itself. The Republicans are divided: and the two divisions are sorely incensed against each

The people are not blind. They clearly perceive things as they are. They see that on the one hand the President has been try ing to bribe and bully the Senate; while on the other our two Senators have been at tempting to usurp certain important constitutional functions belonging to the Presi-

Under these circumstances, the Legislature proceed to elect two United States Senators, in place of the two resigned. And what sort of a front do the Democrats

present? They wantonly trample upon the State Constitution in nominating a candidate therein declared to be ineligible; and, at the same time, a candidate whose strongest recommendation is that he is ineligible!

Is such the way to win over to the Demoeratic party the dissatisfied Republicans and the great body of independent voters?

## The Treasury Thieves.

An investigation has been going on in the Treasury Department for the past two weeks, which reveals another phase of the prevailing corruption in the public service and shows how it has been protected in the mates, Congress appropriated half a million of dollars in round numbers for furniture, fuel, carpets, wagons, books, horses, tollet articles, and other so-called contingencies for the Treasury, from 1877 to 1880 inclusive. Formerly the practice was for each of the bureaus to make its own purchases of these articles, and a direct responsibil ity for any extravagance or collusion was thus fixed in every case. This check was abandoned, under the present management and a clerk, named O. L. PITNEY, became the general purchasing agent, and the custodian of this property. His accounts were subject to the approval of the chief clerk JOHN SHERMAN to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

After Upron's promotion he retained the authority to approve Pirner's accounts, and when charges were made against the latter, he protected him in the face of testimony showing fraud. With the power to buy what he pleased in the limits of the appropriation, and practically to verify his own purchases, PITNEY had full swing, and a Ring of plunderers was organized inside and outside the department, consisting of officials and of favored contractors. The old story of jobbery, extravagance, and corruption was repeated, and the whole of the appropriations was exhausted in this organized rascality. Cabinetmakers and other mechanics are employed regularly in the department for this branch of the service, and they were utilized in a manner that disgraces members of the late Fraudulent Administration, and strengthened the hands

of the thieves. JOHN SHERMAN has grown to a handsomfortune upon the economies of his salary as a member of Congress and of the Cabinet during twenty-five years. He entered the House of Representatives poor in 1855, and he retired from the Treasury a millionaire in 1881, having in the period between these two extremes no other vocation but politics. His prosperity seems to have begun when he was Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate and JAY COOKE was the manager of the public loans.

Mr. SHERMAN is a large owner of real estate in Washington. A few years ago he had built a block of some forty houses, and last year he indulged himself with a fine mansion, adjoining his former residence, in the fashionable quarter of the capital. all his wealth, Mr. SHERMAN is a thrifty and penurious person. He knows that money is power, and he never parts from a dollar without getting at least a full equivalent for it.

Mr. Sherman found it cheap and convenient to make PITNEY, the head of the purchasing Ring of the Treasury, his agent for the collection of rents and attention to his property. PITNEY was too glad to hold that relation, and to have it known in the department, because it served as a passport in the accounting offices and silenced the busy tongue of scandal and of envy among subordinates who knew of his dealings.

Thus fortified, PITNEY detailed cabinetmakers and other mechanics to beautify Mr SHERMAN'S new mansion, to do work for Mr. Evants, and to adorn his own residence, and charged their time and the material used to different bureaus of the Treasury. Backed by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, the latter of whom certified the accounts and is believed to have shared in the speils, this custodian of public property and tensted disburser of a contingent fund of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars per annum pursued his vocation Fig. ... during the whole term of HAXES. date that the malady has made most

While the Fraudulent Administration was canting about civil service reform, this sort of thievery was encouraged by the highest officials, who themselves were its beneficiaries. With such examples before them, it was perhaps natural that a number of the subordinates should participate in the common plunder, and utilize the opportunity to increase their incomes.

An inquiry made, as this is, by dependents, and without power to get at the bottom facts, must be limited in its scope, and is under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. It will probably result in the removal of some of the inculpated clerks, while their superiors, who are responsible to the country, will be allowed to escape, unless Congress shall pursue the investigation with a resolute purpose.

It should also be known that Mr. SHER MAN is answerable for a precedent which does not help his reputation. While travelling over the country, he charged his personal expenses to the fund appropriated for collection of the revenue. No former Secretary used public money in that way, even when engaged on official duty. The example was infectious, and Mr. EVARTS found the practice useful and economical in his department.

The more closely the conduct of the Fraudulent Administration is scrutinized, the more infamous it appears. Even the White House was stripped of its portable equipment in the expiring hours of Hayesism

#### A Strange Disease in Italy. Nothing more painfully impresses travel-

lers in northern Italy than the ravages of the curious disease known as the pellagra among the rural population. The existence of this scourge, and its rapid propagation under the new regime, are phenomena of the gravest social and economical significance Modern science has detected traces of this malady in certain rural districts of southern France and Spain, and of Roumania; but it is only in northern Italy that the disease has acquired the proportions of a national calamity. It is precisely the garden of Italy, or those provinces of Lombardy that are the richest, and seem to a careless eye most civilized, which are most deeply infected with this malady. In the province of Brescia, for example, the victims of pellagra are more than eight per cent. of the rural population, while in the farming districts of Padua, Piacenza, and Ferrara they constitute from five to six per cent. The earliest symptoms of this disease

are an itching and redness in the hands and feet. These are rapidly followed by the disappearance of all adipose matter, the angular parts of the person becoming markedly prominent. The skin now grows abnormally thin, wrinkled, dark yellow and often blackish in color, and is covered with scales to a greater or lesser degree. The general atrophy is soon visible in the muscular tissues; the pulse becomes more and more rapid, thready, and evanescent; the temperature declines, the nails grow into the flesh, all the movements of the body are slow and languid, and the power of sensation is so far diminished as to allow of the introduction of a needle without the patient perceiving it. A tendency to suicide is a characteristic of the disease, and the disturbance of the intellectual faculties frequently culminates in insanity. The sufferers from an advanced development of the malady can only in exceptional cases be cured, and during the period between the attack and its issue in madness or death, they are incapable of labor and are

compelled to become beggars. The Italian Consul at Galatz, reporting ditions of pellagra in Rounisina; becared it to be the general opinion in that country that the appearance of the disease was con temporaneous with the introduction of Indian corn. There is ground, also, for believing that in Italy the spread of the disease coincides locally with the extension of maize cultivation on a large scale, which is a thing of relatively recent origin. There seems to be, indeed, no doubt that the malady attacks only the very poor and underfed, and prevails chiefly among those whose food consists almost exclusively of damaged maize. No one, of course, disputes that sound and wellripened corn is a healthful aliment, or that when in a deteriorated condition it may be safely eaten, if a little fish or milk, or a small quantity of green vegetables, is habitually added to the diet. Indeed, experience has shown that a daily ration of peef and wine, administered to the patient in the early stages of the disease, is quite

sufficient to exterminate the malady. That the disease is produced by an exclusive use of maize in a deteriorated condition seems to be proved conclusively by a report of the Italian Minister of Commerce. It is shown that in many instances Indian corn does not fully and properly ripen in the north of Italy, while in the south, where pellagra is unknown, it ripens perfectly. We are told, too, that even when the grain has been harvested fully ripe, it is often stored up damp, or so badly protected as to secome damp from subsequent wetting.

Moreover, inquiries into the condition of the Lombardan peasant have made it clear that, although he should take good grain to the mill, he is almost certain to receive back flour made of damaged corn. This fraud, indeed, would appear to be a recognized source of the miller's profits. Now, the wages of the rural cultivator in Lombardy are so low-being on an average not more than eighteen cents a day, out of which he has to pay his employers six dollars for the wretched hovel he inhabits-that he is simply unable to add anything to his diet of bad corn meal. He takes this tainted flour and mixes with water a sufficient quantity to last his family for eight days. This dough he divides into loaves of an immense size and puts them into an oven insufficiently heated, withdrawing them, after a very inadequate time, burned on the outside, and wet and nearly raw within. In two or three days this nauseous mass becomes acid and mouldy, but although the pigs refuse it, the peasants are constrained to swallow the only food at their command. In towns, on the other hand, where other kinds of food are as cheap as maize, pellagra does not exist; and even persons affected with the disease who emigrate to cities, although they may dwell there in a condition of great misery, have been known to recover solely by means of their change of residence. No wonder that constant tendency is observed in Lombardy on the part of the most wretched of

the rural poor to throng into the towns. These combined facts have led to the conclusion that the mould developed by Indian corn (and perhaps by certain other grains) during the process of fermentation from dampness, contains a specific poison which produces pellagra in those who exclusively consume it. It is true enough that this poison, like many others, though fatal to a weakened, exhausted organism, is powerless against a vigorous and healthy one. Here it is worth noting that before the consolidation of Italy, the Lombardan peasant could always add something to his diet of corn meal; and it is since that

rapid progress. Under the Austrian régime, when taxation was much lower, the laborer not only received gratuitously the dwelling and garden which he now has to hire, but he had given to him during the winter, besides his wages, a fixed daily quantity of soup and bread, which during summer was supplemented by a second meal that included salad. All these allowances of food have been suppressed without compensation of any kind, and the increased rate of wages remarked in some districts is by no means commensurate to the rise in the price of the necessaries of life. If reproached with the sufferings of the laborers, the landowners reply that they have equal reason to regret the change of government. The lands in the valley of the Po. although they are among the richest in Europe, cannot now be made to yield more than four per cent, net on the capital invested, for the reason that the taxes on real property in Lombardy amount to about fifty per cent. of the annual returns. Southern Italy, on the other hand, from which section come the larger proportion of the Radical Deputies, is much more lightly taxed, and this inequality in taxation means underfeeding and disease to the peasant of the north. Thus we see that, in order that Italy may exhibit a powerful army to the world, the population of its richest provinces is, to quote the language of the official report, morally reduced to the condition of brutes, and physically ruined by the inhuman severity of its labor, by its detestable food, and by the shameful condition of its dwellings.

### A Very Doubtful Measure.

The bill for the removal of the Forty-sec and street reservoir has passed both Houses of the Legislature, and is now in the hands of Gov. Cornell. It is a measure which has been strenuously pushed by Senator Aston, whose anxiety for its passage has not unreasonably been censured because it was believed to be prompted by a desire to further the landed interests of his family.

Senator Aston, however, may have been roverned by other considerations, and may have been influenced by older men who started the project, and who have for years been arguing that the reservoir was no longer of any use, and ought to be removed as an unsightly structure on our most elegant thoroughfare. They would have the ground it occupies added to the little park which extends from its western side to the Sixth ave nue. Is it advisable to tear down the Forty second street reservoir, especially at this time, and is it true that it is unnecessary?

That reservoir gives storage for upward of twenty-five million gallons of water. It is situated well down in the city, and if properly used will give a head of water to thousands of houses which are now suffer ing from the lack of it. It is true that it has not always of late performed great service. But has it not been purposely managed so as to make it seem to be useless ? And has not the attempt to diminish its importance been made with a view to encouraging the project for the removal of the reservoir? Certainly there is reason for supposing that such is the case. Undoubtedly there is a strong party of real estate owners and others who are determined to get rid of the reservoir, and who have easily convinced themselves that it is not needed; that it unnecessarily defaces the beauty of the fashionable neighborhood in which it is situated. Even the Comptroller, we believe,

s anxious to see it torn down. But the removal of the Forty-second street reservoir is a very serious matter. For one thing, the health of the vicinity would be pretty sure to suffer from the tearing down saturated with water would have to be dug into; the aqueous sediment which has been accumulating during the many years the reservoir has been in use would be disturbed; and it would be surprising if the whole neighborhood did not in consequence become infected with the poison of malaria. It is a very dangerous business to remove a structure of that kind when it is situated in the midst of a populous city. Its destruction might rather hurt than help property in its vicinity, at least temporarily. If the work was undertaken, Murray Hill might soon get an evil name as a region blighted

by malaria.

Moreover, the whole question of our water supply is now under examination. It has been made manifest that something must be done to increase the quantity of water upon which the city can rely at all seasons We need a greater head, a larger flow, and improved facilities for distribution. When that problem has been settled, the hydraulic engineers will be able to decide whether the Forty-second street reservoir is or is not a necessary part of the means for furnishing the city with the water it requires.

If the reservoir is to be removed, therefore, now is not the time for undertaking the work. Let us wait until it has been absolutely proved that it is not necessary before we set about tearing the costly structure down. Gov. Connell, we are sure, would not be advised by the majority of those best acquainted with our water supply to sign the present bill.

# Everything Growing Finely.

The rains of late have been so frequent and abundant that vegetation was never fresher and richer at the opening of summer than now. Fields and forests are in their most beautiful garb, and every growing thing gives evidences of health and strong vitality. The spring may not have been early in its coming, but once it came, favorable weather soon brought forward the crops, and now they are well advanced for the season.

The outlook for the hay crop could not be more encouraging. The grass has been fed by the plentiful rains, and is everywhere in fine condition, for from all parts of the country we get reports of showers and a rainfall more than usually heavy for spring and early summer. In some of the Western States, indeed, complaint is made that the copious rains have delayed planting, already behindhand because of the lateness

of the season. It is dangerous to trust the crop reports which come to us in June and July. Gambling in grain is now carried on so widely and enormously that all sorts of stories are manufactured for the purpose of affecting prices in the interest of the operators in Chicago and New York. Every year at this time we hear gloomy predictions as to the harvest. Minor calamitles which have befallen a single district are magnified into widespread disasters, and the attempt is made to produce the impression that the crops must of necessity be diminished in consequence. Such stories are in circulation now; but, taking the country as a whole, every competent observer must be satisfied that the season so far has been favorable for agriculture. We have had no drought like that which caused the farmers so great alarm at this time last year, when

healthy growth. It is reported, however, that a smaller

the young grass began to turn brown. The

insect enemies of vegetation are not work-

ing so much harm as usual. The weather

for a month has been of a kind to promote

acreage has been sown in spring wheat than last year, and that the crop of winter wheat will be less by a third. When the harvest is measured we shall see whether it is so. Corn has certainly been planted to a greater extent than in 1890, and of the other grains we get hopeful accounts. The season has opened happily for the farmers beyond a question, and they have every reason to ex-

pect a prosperous year. The small fruits never looked better in June than they do now throughout the States which furnish New York with its supply. Strawberries are abundant and cheap and of an exceptionally good quality. The early vegetables, too, have flourished exceedingly during the last few weeks, and the market gardeners have no reason for complaining of the present yield or of the prospects for the future. The very healthy condition of all vegetation is especially no ticeable this year.

## A Triple Presidency.

It was a favorite idea with John C. Cal-HOUN, when he had nearly lost hope of preserving the slave power in any other way, to change the Constitution of the United States so as to have a dual executive-two

Presidents at one time. Mr. Conkling, although he does not advocate any formal amendment of the Constitution, attempts, practically, to change the single executive, so far as concerns the making of nominations, into a triple executive, composed of the President and two United States Senators. He insists that when a nomination is to be made to fill vacancies, or to supersede officers in a certain State, the two Senators from that State should be consulted before the nomination is made.

Of course, there would be no meaning to this step unless it was carried further, and in case the Senators should disapprove of the proposed nomination, then the nomination should not be made. In an executive with three heads two would constitute a majority, so that, in effect, the power of the President in making nominations would be reduced to precisely what that of the Vice-President now is in the Senate; that is to say, it would be a cipher except in the event of a tie. Or, in other words, the President would be substantially deprived of one of the most important functions conferred upon him by the Constitution.

The circumstance that two of the trio constituting the executive would be constantly shifting from State to State, as the places for the appointments vary, does not constitute any recommendation to the measure.

Mr. HAYES has recently given himself a little satisfaction by expressing his opinion of Boscon Conming. Mr. Conming represents only one side of the present struggle among New York Republicans. The Administration represents the other. Mr. HAVES doesn't want an office; why shouldn't he criticise both sides? Let us have his views on the Administration. which just now snams to be so busy investirating the doings of the Administration of Mr. HAYES.

The principal celestial event of the week will be the total eclipse of the moon on next Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, as the eclipse does not begin in this city until after midnight. The slow advance of the earth's shadow over the moon, until it completely extinguishes our brilliant satellite, and then the gradual reappearance of the shining disk, will e a sight worth the loss of a few hours' sleep. Such an eclipse is of comparatively little value to astronomers, but it is always a wonderful spectacle, besides being a clear illustration of some of the fundamental truths of Copernican astronomy.

ently invented abroad, the water level in any botler may be ascertained at any distance from the latter. This useful apparatus consists of an indicating tablet, constructed in such a manner that it may be placed in any part of the establishment, and connected with the electric indicator, which is fixed at the top of a vertical tube above the boiler. Wires and platinum plates are so arranged that when the water in the boller sinks to a certain point an electric current is established which rings a signal, while at the same time the sign "low water" appears on the indicating tablet—thus conveniently insuring against danger.

# What the Word Actually Is-The Creed of a

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: My former articles were written with the intent of showing that the ground is cut from under the feet of sectarians who build on degma by the revised New Testament. To those whose faith in inspiration has been disturbed by it and those who hold the popular beliefs to be untenable because not provable. I offer the creed of a new church which it is hoped this wonderful year may see inaugu rated in outward form. Its members will hold that the "Word of God" is surely found in Mark xii. 28-31,

rated in outward form. Its members will hold that the "Word of God" is surely found in Mark xii. 28-31, because by universal consent this Word commends itself to the human reason, which a "Word of God" primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the second of God primarily are the consent that the second of God primarily are the second of the God of the Hebrews, reterrated and assured by Jeaus Christ, and will relies to accept any main's document of the God of the Hebrews, reterrated and assured by Jeaus Christ, and will relies to accept any main's document of the God of the Hebrews, reterrated and assured by Jeaus Christ, and will relies to accept any main's document of the God primarily of the second of God primarily of the second of God primarily of the second of God primarily of God primar

and the "coming man."

And the "coming man."

The property of the property of the new version or any other, although he may be by dogmatic defenders.

Mosas.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The members of the Retail Clothing Salesmen's Early Closing As-sociation regret that, while the newspapers have been uniformly kind in giving notice of our meetings, they have drawn no distinctive line between the strikes of laboring men and mechanics (however just) and th labering men and mechanics (however just) and the efforts of this association to obtain from completers a concession only as to time. In our avocation there are employed in the cities of New York and Brooklyn in clothing and merchant tailor stock and strong men-men of education and refinement and of strong men-men octations and refinement and of strong men-men octations and refinement and of strong men-men octations and refinement and of strong men men cities but bound down by old established usage scheduling and the average of a few employers on the other to a condition worse (as the leader in the dry goods move ment truly said at our last meeting) than the bardest type of black alayery that ever existed, bound to hard labor of mind and body fifteen hours out of wenty-four!

To the Epiron of The Serv. W. The Server salests

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ne: The street railroad nen are as much entitled to demand ten hours for a day's work as any class of workingmen. It takes as intelligent work as any class of workingmen. It takes as intelligent a man to navigate a passenger car safely through the crowded streets of this great city as it does to unife a house or dis a cellar. Yet the others get their ten hours and an hour at mon for dinner, but we must shave away for fifteen or sixteen hours and go hungry, or car and work at the same time. Now, this all comes from a lot of men being allowed to build railroads and value them at twice their cost, and then rob men of their time to give value to the rotten stock. Last the roads hire more men; hey are all making money, and can well afford to do it. Let them cut down the big salaries of some of the useless figureheads who serve as Presidents, but spend meets of their time in the stock market.

Can Darran.

#### Let Garfield go Ahead, Then! From the Cincinnati Comme

There are not enough persons in Ohio ever thown as Republicans, who would scratch Foster to spite Garfield, to fill one country school house. The Ohio entiment is simply overwheiming for the President, and the overthrow of Conkling is almost universally regarded as a good thing for the Republican party and all con Peace and Prosperity.

# From the Clinton Patriot-Democrat

The colored people in our pariah are working by far more industriously this year than ever before since the war. They are not only at peace with the white people, but on the most friendly terms, and as a consequence are contented and happy, and lave a prosperous future before them. So much for the abandonment of "carpetbag" rule in East Felicians.

How Did it Get There ! From the Apringfald Republican.

Mon at work in the steam mill at Warwick reently found a horseshoe embedded in the heart of a tree WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

in the law regulating the manner of voting for members of the Assembly assumed such an important character that Gambetta took the unusual course of leaving the chair and joining in the debate. The object of the new project is to do away with the present system of voting by arrondissements, which are equivalent to our wards, and to substitute therefor the scrutin de liste, a method by which it is hoped to extinguish the French equivalent for our ward politician. Paris is now divided into twenty arrondissements, each of which returns one Deputy to the Chamber. The result is that each arrondissement being in the hands of the local politicians, they fix upon one of their friends, who may or may not be a man of capacity, and send him to the Chamber as their representative. Should the proposed law pass, the number of representatives will remain the same, but each vote will have twenty votes, one of which he will cast for each of the twenty men he choose from the list of candidates. By this method it is expected that the merely local politician will be defeated at the polls by the votes of the other arrondissements, wherein he is unknown This effacement of the ward orator has, of course, been strengously opposed by many of the present Deputies. It also accounts for the action of the committee appointed to examine the bill, who reported against it. As the measure is practically Gambetta's, although its nominal author is M. Bardoux, the former had to use all his influence and exert his preëminent pratorical powers in its behalf. His speech was a brilliant one. He likened the system of voting in use at present to a "cracked mirror, in which France cannot recognize her own visage." He pointed out that " the scrutin de liste and official candidatures could not coexist," and intimated that true republicanism could not exist unless the scrutin d'arrondissement were done away with. By arguments such as these he induced the Chamber of Deputies to pass the measure and it is now under consideration in the Senate, where its fate hangs trembling in the balance. The Senators perceive the faults of the measure, which is likely to concentrate public opinion too much on one man.

Take Gambetta himself, for instance. Should the measure become law, it is safe to predict that at the next election he will be elected by a number of departments. With such an en dorsement, his claims to the Presidency of the republic would be so undeniable that no other course would be open for President Grévy but to resign. Gambetta would become an absolute Dictator, and the personal Government, which was thought to have been destroyed by the fall of MacMahon, would be recstablished. This result is far from improbable. Gambetta has declared that he will not undertake Ministerial responsibility unless the scrutin de liste or some equivalent measure be passed. He knows that his power is such that no policy disapproved of by him can be carried out. Dufaure, Waddington, and De Freycinet have each in turn been forced to yield to Gambetta's influence, and have resigned the Ministerial positions which they have filled, and Jules Ferry is only permitted to continue in power on account of his harmlessness and because he can be ousted at any moment Gambetta chooses. France, therefore, is at present governed by a man who exercises power without responsibility, and this is, of course, a most deplorable condition of affairs for any Government to find itself in. Turkish politics continue to be full of knots

which no one can unravel. The inquiry into

the cause of the death of the late Sultan, Abdul Aziz, has been no exception to the rule. The only thing clearly established by the inquiry is that the deposed Sultan is dead, but how he came to shuffle off this mortal coil is more of a mystery than ever. At the time of his demise it was given out that he had cut the thread of his life by severing the arteries of his wrist with a pair of seissors, and, although the statement was doubted, as the seissors were produced and several doctors declared that the wounds were such as might have been made with them, it was generally taken for granted that Abdul Aziz had died by his own hand in the has, however, recently appeared in the shape of a confession by a Turkish lady of rank who having failed to retain the affection of her lord and master, denounced him and Midhat Pashs out of revenge as having conspired together to murder the deposed Commander of the Faithful. She assigns as a motive for the seemingly useless crime the fact that Abdul Aziz was possessed of considerable personal property, and affirms that to enrich themselves Mahmoud, Damad, and Midhat caused the murder to be perpetrated. Her account of the murder is most circumstantial. Three assassing were secretly introduced to the ex-Sultan's chamber. To one of them, a professional wrestler, was assigned the duty of severing the arteries with a dagger while the other two held the victim down. Abdul showed fight, however, and disarranged the programme so seriously that the murderers had to use considerable violence. The medical men who examined the corpse declared at the time that there were no traces on the body of a struggle, and that the wounds on the wrists were made with some blunt instrument, such as a pair of scissors. Notwithstanding this conflict of evidence, the court of inquiry has come to the conclusion that Mahmoud and Midhat were concerned in the death of Abdul. This conclusion is not ac quiesced in by many people who know the intricacy of Turkish rule, and they hint that the revival of these exciting stories is intended to withdraw Turkish attention from the cession of territory to Greece. They do not hegitate to say that neither of the tales is true. They say that what the doctors-some of whom were foreigners-testified was probably correct, as far as it went, and proves that the murder story, which was confessed at so opportune a moment is false. But all this does not irrefutably estab lish the suicide theory, because self-murder is extremely rare among Mussulmans, by reason of their fatalistic belief. It ought to be remembered also that the present Turkish Minister of Justice is a most bitter personal enemy of the accused Midhat.

Under the powers given them by the Congress of Berlin, the Bulgarians on the 25th of April, 1879, proceeded to choose a King. From among five candidates Prince Alexander of Battenberg, a Lieutenant in the Prussian army was elected, and, with the aid of the wisest Buigars to be found, a constitution was drawn up, ratified, and confirmed. This precious document consisted of one hundred and sixtynine articles, each breathing peace on earth and good will to Bulgarians. Under this Constitution the first Bulgarian Parliament was chosen. As soon as its members full secure in their seats, instead of proceeding to fulfil the ordinary duties of legislators, they began abusing the men who had placed them in The Ministry thereupon resigned. The King, however, refused to accept the resignations, and for five weeks the scene in the first Bulgarian Parliament closely resembled pandemonium. Not a dozon members were capable of expressing opinions upon the laws they were enacting, for they were ignorant peasants who could not comprehend the first principles of the civilization they were supposed to be spreading. The King thereupon used his royal prerogative and sent his "faithful Lords and Commons," or whatever the Bulgarian equivalent may be, home to their daily avocations of brigandage and rapine. A second Parliament was elected, but the result was no better. The Ministers, whose action is fully endorsed by the national representatives, have steadily refused to carry out the obligations which the Berlin Congress imposed upon them as a condition of their freedom from Turkish rule. They will neither dismantle the Danubian fortresses nor pay the stipulated tribute to the Sultan, and they strenuously oppose the construction of railroads. The Nibilists and revolutionary conspirators who have been driven out of Russia, Roumania, and Servia, find at the Bulgarian capital s warm welcome; consequently that city has become a hotbed of

finds himself powerless, and has accordingly threatened to abandon the splendors of his throng, unless the useless Constitution is thrown The discussion in the French Chamber of into the fire. Silly enthusiasts have long been Deputies with respect to the proposed change vigorously propounding the ideas that popular representation is a panacea for all political ills. They said that the Bulgars were eminently fitted for self-government, that as Christians they ought to be freed from Turkish rule. Great results were prophesied from the estab-That the lishment of Bulgarian autonomy. event has greviously disappointed these philanthropic idiots, there can be no doubt. It is to be hoped they will consider that, by officious intermeddling, they have retarded the true emancipation of eastern Eroupe for some considerable time, for it is not likely that the Czar of Russia, with the Bulgarian example on hand, will grant constitutional privileges to the people, the bulk of whom are quite as ignorant and unfit to exercise the franchise as the sub-

jects of the disgusted King of Bulgaria.

Two very important contributions have reently been made to the science of locomotion. Near Berlin Messrs, Stemens and Halske, the famous electricians, have placed in successful operation an electric railway. They at first meant to construct a road similar to our elevated roads in Berlin, but the authorities would not allow any experiments of that nature to be made in their city, and the inventors had to go outside the city limits to put their new motive power into operation. Its pronounced success has already attracted the attention of capitalists. and new tram roads are to be built in Berlin on Messre, Siemens's and Halske's principle. The other experiment was made near London, and was a trial of compressed air as a motive power. Compressed air engines are far from being a recent discovery, but they have not hitherto been found practically useful. Col. Beaumont has, however, succeeded in perfect-

ing the machinery, and a fair trial of the Beaumont engine" over an ordinary horse tramroad, the gradients and curves of which were very severe, proved that all the inventor claims for his engine it can accomplish, and more, too. The importance of this to the horse car companies in England may be estimated from the fact that they cover twenty-three millions of miles in the course of a year, and that horse power costs about fourteen cents a mile. Col. Beaumont will contract to provide motive power for twelve cents a mile, thus saving the companies \$460,000 per annum. The engine is of course, noiseless and smokeless, and does not drop hot water and grease. It would, therefore, seem to be well adapted for our elevated roads. The annual meeting of the English Peace Society was addressed by Sir Wilfred Lawson, the

champion of the testotalers. The purpose of this society is to abolish war. To attain this end it advocates the abolition of the army, although it does not seem to have vetturned its attention to the navy and the volunteers. But their turn will come in time, and the arguments used at the recent meeting must be taken to include both. Sir Wilfred applied himself to the task of explaining how her Majesty's forces could be abolished, and the plan he suggested was the simple one of "Boycotting the officers and men." Bir Wilfred will find the strongest opponents to his scheme among the women. What would the petticoated portion of the population of the garrison towns do without their "boiled lobsters," as the red-coated guardians of their country's honor are irreverently termed? It is to be hoped that Sir Wilfred was only joking but he went beyond the legitimate limits of humor when he suggested that every one who entered the army "should be looked upon as i he were going into an equivocal profession-a if he were going on the Stock Exchange or were about to open a pawnbroker's shop." ill-considered speech Sir Wilfred has added considerably to his already sufficiently numerous enemies-the sellers as well as the consumers of liquors.

A young American named Bishop, who is well known in New York by his expose of spirituniism, has met with much success in London, in what he terms "thought reading." He has completely mystifled such men as Sutherland Edwards, Labouchere, Sir Julius Benedict, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Sir John Lubbock, Francis Galimproved on the method used by Mr. and Miss Heller, for, as far as can be discovered, he has no accomplice. His performance has attracted the attention of the Prince of Wales, who has invited him to exhibit his powers at Marlborough House.

The struggle of the three languages at the German court is still continuing, and the chances are that French will be ultimately driven out of use in Germany. According to the Aligemeine Zeitung:

Contrary to the old habit, the best society makes use and their children, and up to the present time is requestly steeken in the tamily circle, just as is the case in the royal Bectan funds. The trawn Frincess of Germany and her children speak French with a somewhat soil access the remain intonation strongy recalls her Thurmesan origin. The use of a foreign language in a princely house seems to be rendered almost necessary on account of the servants.

Cut flowers have of late become quite as popular in Europe as an article of female adorn ment as they are in America. They are, howover, much cheaper on the other side of the Atlantic. More than \$50 has probably never been paid for a bridal bouquet, while the sum of \$25 would be considered an unboard-of extrayagance for a bridesmaid's bouquet. lilies never exceed 25 cents aplece in London in the coldest season, and camellias are considered dear at half that price, while the richest roses can be bought at 10 to 15 cents apiece. N. L. T.

# Why Rivers are Crooked.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Water must pen a straight line to the sea. It will force the sand to one side until stopped by some object, when i will go in the other direction, and so on until it comes t the sea. This shifting from side to side will take away the sand from one place only to sile at on some object that is too form to be moved by the water, thus causing the river to be crooked. It is were straight the rand would be driven before the water, and the insistent would soon be blocked. This would cause the water to strend and overflow, and insical of a river we would have a swamp.

To rim Reproduct Take Schoolse, I think to the

ewamp.

To THE EUTOR OF THE SUN-FOR I think Mr. King p will find that water running through an alluvial or sandy soil banks it no, and this eventually forces the stream in another direction. The Passaic River of New Jersey in a great degree, to my mind, answers the appearance Having run through hard wal more and more directly and entering the soil soil tellow Newark it immediately asked a screening the soil soil tellow Newark it immediately asked a screening the soil soil tellow Newark it immediately with the Hackensea, it forms Newark Hay. I think that nature is triumplant in her work.

To yet Faircon or The Sun To Sun To Sun To Sun Frieschen. TO THE PHITON OF THE SCHOOL The bank of the Misesistance throughout, since the soil is different at difrent points along the bank.

The Missouri, Arkanasa, Ohio, and other rivers flowing into the Missouri, Arkanasa, Ohio, and other rivers flowing into the Missossippi cause it to vibrate at different ratios and prosince waves of different sites. These waves will find a lay have more effect out sites. These waves will distance by have more effect out to be a made of the content of the state of the content of the content of the site of the content of the

To the Editor of The Sus-Sir It appears to me quite To the Edition of the Sun-Sul Lappears to me quite natural that water forcing its way through a sandy seil should meet every new and then, at different points, with soil a little more or much more compact than at others, therefore offering agreater resistance. It then takes a fine to the right or left, perhaps flowing back upon itself, units, meeting with soil of less resistance, it break, through, thus he in a mee at right angle to its previous course, when its lateral action would naturally round the orders and give its form of a curve. And so on, similar circumstances producing similar results.

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir-Water, when culting

To the Eoston of The Sch-Sir: Water, when cutting its way through an atluvial or sandy soil, drives like a wedge into it, pushing the same partly aside, partly The soil lying in front of the flowing water is this shovelled more and more backward, and becomes in this way so compressed and condensed that at last it offers a resistance which cannot be swarchine by the pressure of the stream. The latter diverses subways into a soil not accompressed, and takes main to a straight into, pushing its way through notified and the same of stacle and has to take to the same effects that it is the same of the same and the same and the same of the same in the same and the same of the same and the sa thus shovelled more and more backward, and becomes

From some causes are here at work which lords the fall of the same causes are here at work which lords the well that the same are the sold sold it is seen the sold sold it is seen the sir that is compressed until it is condensed tought to effect such resistance as to compel the lighting turn from its threat way. to turn from its direct way disaffection, and is a standing menace to the tranquilility of the adjacent countries. Naturally,

BUNBEAMS.

-There are 266 city missionaries in this city, and the number of calls they make in the course of

year on the sick and poor is estimated at femore -Most of the Methodist ministers in Alabama receive very poor pay. Yet these self-denying men have just contributed from their own salaries enough noney to support a foreign missionary. This was done n consequence of the pressure of a resolution introduced nto Conference at its recent session

-The Baltimore Biblical Institute has dedicated its new building. In which it has facilities for educating 150 students. Ninety-six candidates for the ninistry have during the past twelve months enloyed the advantages of this institution. These are all colored ople, as it is only for their benefit that the institution a carried on. -A Brooklyn clergyman has presented

his children's pet dog with a dinner service of green ma olica. The dog comes to the table regularly whenever the bell is rung for meals, and is also a stated attendant on family prayers. The animal's behavior during time of worship is quite as decorously devout as that of the other members of the household. -Brother Inskip and his companions in

travel are now heard from as having held enthusiastic moetings in Melbourne, Australia. They had made ar-rangements for meetings in Sydney, to continue three weeks. Brother Inskip was at last accounts enjoying vigorous health, and his voice was unimpaired in volume, as well as uninjured in tone. -Bishop Wightman of the Southern Methodist Church has been confined to his house by illness since last October. During most of this time he has been

unable to leave his bed. For some weeks his recover was not looked for, but he is now so much better that he has left Charleston for Summerville, which is about twenty miles off. He hopes to engage in his regular duties in a few weeks. -The Christian Advocate assalls the character of the late Col. Thomas A. Scott by inditing an in-scription for his monument, which would say, among other things, that he was "forgettul of God and of the end of all things earthly." The facts in the case are that

Col. Scott was a devout member of the Protestant Epis copal Church, and that he died supported by the consc lations of religion and in a spirit of calm resignation to the will of his Maker. -The Washington Heights Presbyterian Church in 155th street was built in 1860. Until last Sunday it was struggling along under the burden of a \$14,000 debt. By patient care the trustees had accumulated s sinking fund of \$2,000 against this. On Sunday morning last the Rev. Dr. Stoddard, the pastor, without previous notics told the congregation he would like to have that old debt paid. Immediately he took up subscriptions

which amounted to \$13,000. The church people were so delighted at what they had done that they spent the evening in holding a special thanksgiving service of praise and prayer. -The Minnie Stowe is a beautiful new yacht which is devoted to mission purposes in Boston harbor. It is named after the daughter of the chaptain of the Sallors' Bethel. The missionary who commands it was a wild young sallor, who was converied at the Bethel, and who determined to give himself to efforts to behalf of the unconverted sallors who from time to time enter the harbor in vessels. With his little yacht this missionary visits the vessels lying at anchor and distributes books and tracts, and holds prayer and exhorts

tion meetings. The expense of keeping this mission affoat is not great, and the good accomplished by it is said to exceed the expectations of its originator. -A certain church which claimed credit or considerable liberality took up a collection for the spread of the Gospel among the heathen. The among was \$503.25. One of the members was boasting what great things the church had done, and how thankful the igent of the foreign missionary work out to be at receiv ing so substantial a collection. But on investigation is proved that one benevolent individual had contributed \$500. This left the sum of \$3.25 as the united contribution of somewhat over fifty members. Some of these gave nothing at all, and the most liberal of them, outsid f the giver of the \$500, gave very small amounts. Not rithstanding this, as they were fellow members with th \$500 man, they felt that they were to a certain exten moral stockholders with him in his liberality.

-The two little sons of a noted Brooklyn lergyman engaged in a discussion on heaven and the robable occupation of the ransomed who are to dwell there. Johnny asked Jimmy if he supposed they would have apples in heaven to which Jimmy replied that he supposed they would, for the tree of life was to bear weive manner of fruits, and he saw no reason why apples should not be among them. The inquiring Johnny then suggested a difficulty about the cores, and said he was afraid boys would not be allowed to throw them on the colden pavements. Jimmy meditated a few mo-ments, and then said that a way out of this difficulty ap-peared plain to him. He told Johnny that they could go to the edge of heaven, and lean ever the wall and throw the cores down at the people on earth. "We are told," continued Jimmy, "that we shall have a great many pleasures in heaven, and I don't see why that shouldn's be one of them." Although the conclusion arrived at by eached by more mature theologians, it was not wider of the mark than are the opinions which are sometimes gravely pronounced by the learned concerning the condion and employment of the just in the world of glory

-A very unpleasant feeling prevails in

Brooklyn over the exclusion of the Unitarians, Unive asiists, and Swedenborgians from the privilege of parad-ing the streets with the rest on the annual "marching day." The statement is made in defence of this practice by the officers of the Brooklyn Sunday School Uni the parade is not one of all the schools in Brooklyn, but only of those which belong to the Union. The outsiders who are excluded do not "belong to the Union," simply for the reason that the "Union" gives them the cold shoulder as to membership, just as it does in regard to parade. The Union is managed by a select company of very nice gentlemen who are a well satisfied. ery nice gentlemen who are so well own orthodoxy that they are not willing to take the risk of contaminating it by associating with those whose "doxy" is at all questionable. The curious feature of the affair as it now stands is that in the Eastern District of Brooklyn the Universalists have for years been mingling and marching with the rest, and no evil has come of in At the Sunday school conventions which have been held in Kings County within the last two or three years the Universalists have been present as freely as any of the rest, and have partaken with the others of the lunch generously spread for all who wished to refresh themselves. These conventions, however, were not managed by the Brooklyn Sunday School Union.

-To-day's Sunday school lesson is about

the crucifixion, as set forth in Luke xxin., 23-46, the golden text being the declaration of our Lord, " And I, if be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unt me." In obedience to the clamor of the people, Pontius Pilate had delivered Jesus to them for crucialxion. Jesus was scourged at 9 o'clock in the morning, soon after which the procession set out for Calvary. Jesus was a first bearing the cross on which he was to be executed.

Fainting under its weight. He became unable to carry if, and it was given to one Simon, who carried it the rest of the way. We do not know the exact location of Calvary. It has been the subject of much controversy among the learned, some of whom contend that it was outside the walls of Jerusalem, while others insist that it was within. After He was united to the cross the soldiers cast lots for His Garments. The multitude journd and deroted Him and dared Him to take Himself down from the cross, and thus prove the divinity which He claimed. There was an earthquake and there was darkness. The great cur-tain or veil of the Temple was suddenly rent. This was accepted by the followers of Jesus as a sign that the cer-emonial ordinances of the Jewish law were abolished. With His dying breath Jesus exclaimed, "It is for hed." His work was accomplished. His ministry was ended The body of the crucified was taken down from the cross and buried by His disciples according to the rites observed by the Jews. It was a gloomy time with these lisciples, for they thought His ministry was a failure and His death a hopeless defeat. The glories of the res-perfection morning succeeded to the despondency which the crucifixion brought, and permanent victory took the place of temporary defeat.

-A revolution has taken place in the United Presbyterian Church, the General Assumity of which has just been hold in Allegheny Cit. Pa. The advocates of instrumental music have wan no overwhelming victory. For a long time the younger codmore progressive people in this communion have sould against the grim old probblation of organs and their instrumental able to worst braise. The old hard brais, when live on traditions handed down from former eventures. have united in the most persistent, and hitter and to the movement. The young people have to extend to go to other denominations, where they ear nave all the music they want. The hard heads responded to this threat by telling them to go where they please of the traditions of the fathers. The United President terians are mostly descended from the Scotch, and are very set in their opinions, as well as decided in the ex-pression of them. They are right in their observance of the Day of Rest, and in insisting that it be called subtath instead of Sunday. They refuse to sing anythine but the thit Testament psaims. Singularly enough, although these psaims speak in many places of praising the Lord. with the aid of organs and other instruments, these good people stoudy declare all instruments to be unscrip tural and opposed to the spirit of worship. Their south is generally as unattractive as singing can be. It gent persistence for years, the advocates of music have now so far overcome their old adversaries as to pro-cure the passage of what would be called if in the liftterance work, a "local option law." This was directly a vote of 131 to 22. The matter now goes to the Preshy teries for final action, but there is no doubt as to what that action will be. This will remove one of the creat barriers which has existed between this body and the rest of the Presbyterian families. It is not to be expected that family quartet choice and other mission is wellies will for a white be introduced. This would fait irritate tranquility of the adjacent countries. Naturally, A sore throat a distressing cough, asthma, or any prevail. The antibod is time to most carry, who something have been made to the King. He are speedily removed by Dr. Jayne's Expecterant—Ade.